

# Star Market to close at the beginning of February

## Cambridge City Council to ask lease owner Forest City to lease space to another grocer

By Zoe Anderson  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Star Market, the grocery store behind Random Hall that many MIT students rely on, is closing at the beginning of February. There is not a new tenant lined up for the space at this time, Jan Devereux, Vice Mayor of the City of Cambridge, told *The Tech* in a phone call Jan. 4.

Denise Simmons, Cambridge City Councillor, put an order on the Policy Order and Resolution List for the council's Jan. 8 meeting to request that the city manager talk to Forest City Realty Trust, the company that leases the property, about replacing Star Market with Market Basket or another grocery store offering similar variety and affordability.

Devereux said that she will meet with Jay Kiely, Senior Property Manager at Forest City, and Sarah Gallop, Co-Director of the Office of Government and Community Relations at MIT, to discuss leasing the space to

another affordable grocery store.

Forest City developed the Court, the area between Central and Kendall Squares, starting in the 1980s. Forest City leases the site that Star Market currently occupies, although MIT owns the property. Part of Forest City and MIT's original agreement with the city of Cambridge was the inclusion of a supermarket as a community benefit. Simmons intends to see that the Forest City and MIT now "keep their promise, not to say that they intend not to," she said during the council meeting.

"Given that Star struggled over the years, I'm not sure it will end up being a retail use, but it's certainly something we will consider," Michael Farley, Senior Vice President of Asset Management at Forest City, told *The Tech* in a phone call Jan. 5. "We'll evaluate all the options that are available. ... We'll look at retailers as well as potentially office tenants and de-



KARLEIGH MOORE—THE TECH

The meat section of Star Market is nearly empty after store announces closure and sales, amid a severe winter storm.

Star Market, Page 6

### IN SHORT

The IAP pre-registration deadline is tomorrow.

The spring pre-registration deadline is next Thursday, Jan. 18. Students must also select preferences for spring CI-H/CI-HW subjects by this date.

Costco shuttle hours will be reduced in Spring 2018. The shuttle will run on eight Sundays: Jan. 14, Feb. 4, Feb. 25, Mar. 18, Apr. 8, Apr. 22, May 13, Jun. 10.

Registration for getfit 2018, a 12-week, team-oriented fitness challenge open to the entire MIT community, is open until Jan. 21.

Welcome back to campus!

Send news and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

# Remembering Kate Hunter, 1997–2017

## Members of MIT community reflect on memories they shared with Hunter

By Sharon Chao  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



CHRIS SACHA

Hunter in the lab during her summer in Santiago, Chile.

Katherine "Kate" Hunter '20 died unexpectedly after a brief illness Dec. 31 in Arizona surrounded by family, President Rafael L. Reif wrote in an email to the MIT community Jan. 3.

Originally from Newport Beach, California, Hunter majored in Course 6-3 (Computer Science and Engineering) at MIT and lived in Maseeh her freshman year before moving into the Sigma Kappa sorority house.

Hunter did research with the Haystack group at MIT CSAIL, was an officer of the Cycling Club, and participated in DanceTroupe. She spent last summer in Santiago as

part of MISTI Chile. Hunter was also a member of the women's lightweight crew team freshman year.

Even before Hunter set foot on campus, she made a lasting impression on people in the MIT community who had met her. "Kate's infectious positive personality was evident from our first meeting in Pierce Boathouse, the summer before her senior year of high school, when we recruited Kate as one of the top high school rowers in the country," Claire Martin-Doyle, the women's lightweight crew coach, wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "Kate's enthusiastic drive to excel at both academics and athletics was a model for other student athletes, and her dedication to ad-

vancing these passions continued as an MIT student-athlete."

Jada Griffith '20 first met Hunter during Campus Preview Weekend in April 2016, and the two had been friends since then. "She's the type of person you'll only be lucky enough to meet once in your life. She had that electric smile, the kind that makes you instantly want to become friends. Her face was the one I'd look forward to seeing the most every day at MIT," Griffith wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

Alexa Jan '20 also met Hunter during CPW. "I met Kate at CPW as a pre-frosh, and since then, we've rowed on the same team, worked on random passion proj-

Kate Hunter, Page 2

## MIT admits 664 students to the Class of 2022 in Early Action admissions

MIT admitted 664 students to the Class of 2022 Dec. 14. A record high 9,557 students applied early action this year, making for a record low acceptance rate of 6.9 percent.

Of those who were not offered a spot, 6,210 students (65.0 percent) were deferred and will be considered again "without prejudice," according to an admissions blog post announcing the results, in the regular action round, while 2,498 students (26.1 percent) were rejected. The rest withdrew their applications before decisions were issued.

In comparison with last year, the total number of early action applicants is up from 8,394 (representing a 13.9 percent increase); the acceptance rate is down from 7.8 percent; the deferral rate is down from 69.7 percent; and the rejection rate is up from 20.5

percent.

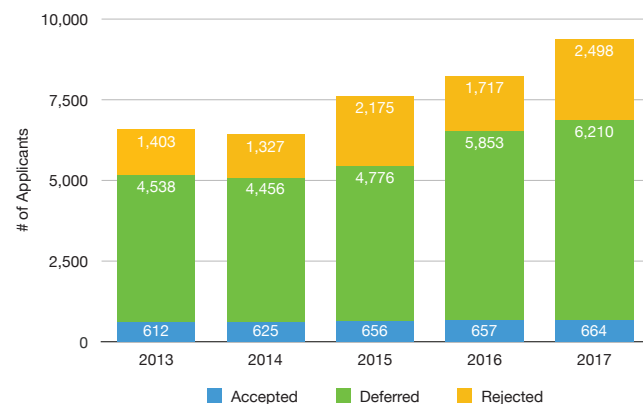
More broadly, the acceptance rate has been steadily decreasing since 2014, while the deferral and rejection rates have fluctuated with less consistency.

This is also the third year the early action option has been open to international students.

Several natural disasters, including Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, as well as wildfires in California, have ravaged on throughout the fall semester, perhaps affecting the number of students who chose or were able to submit applications. In an earlier blog post published Sept. 25, MIT admissions member Elizabeth Choe '13 wrote that they would "try to be as flexible as possible in these situations" and emphasized that applying early action bears no "bonus points."

—Jessica Shi

MIT Early Action Trends, 2013 – 2017



JESSICA SHI—THE TECH

MIT Early Action trends. These numbers do not include applications that were incomplete or withdrawn.

### IS JERUSALEM THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL?

Thoughtful arguments for and against. **OPINION**, pp. 4-5

### 6.006 IS GOOD FOR SOMETHING

A student 'algorithmizes' her daily commute. **CAMPUS LIFE**, p. 3

### GET OUT OF YOUR ROOM

Read our list of things to do for IAP. **CAMPUS LIFE**, p. 3



### CLASSISM ON THE MOON

Artemis book creates a dynamic world but static characters. **ARTS**, p. 8

### SKATING INTO INFAMY

Margot Robbie shines in *I, Tonya*, a black comedy that humanizes infamous skater Tonya Harding. **ARTS**, p. 9

### SECTIONS

Campus Life . . . . .3  
Opinion . . . . .4  
Arts . . . . .7  
Fun Pages . . . . .10



# MISTI classmate recounts favorite moments from summer in Chile

Kate Hunter, from Page 1

ects together, and talked about nothing and everything until late,” Jan wrote in an email to *The Tech*. “Kate was so hardworking and yet always fun to be around, cheering me up whenever I was down and never without her cup of black coffee. She was an amazing friend, teammate, and classmate who made the lives of everyone she met a little bit brighter and better.”

As a freshman, Hunter qualified for the Lightweight Four for the 2016 Head of the Charles. Her crew finished in third place and was the first U.S. collegiate finisher in a field of top Division I and elite lightweight crews, according to Martin-Doyle.

Hunter then joined the Cycling Club in the spring of her freshman year. Amanda Chen G, who joined at the same time, recalled Hunter’s resilience and enthusiasm when she adapted to using clipless pedals, which fix the shoe and bike pedal together when engaged. “Usually, people struggle with engaging and disengaging clipless pedals for weeks, often first exploring on grass in case of accidents before riding on the road. But Kate was fearless, and enthusiastically jumped into her first race with clipless pedals,” Chen wrote in an email to *The Tech*. “Despite falling over on the start line, she never lost her smile, and instead got up and kept going until she crossed the finish line in great triumph.”

Laura Treers ’18, also part of the Cycling Club, remembered the coffee

rides and lunches in the dining hall with Hunter. “She was a great riding buddy: she always had a smile on her face, and was so excited to be exploring the world on her bike. She always had great stories to tell, and had a great sense of humor,” Treers wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

Chris Sacha ’19 worked with Hunter last summer at a makerspace at Universidad del Desarrollo in Santiago through MISTI Chile. Hunter was working on air sensors in a rural community that relies on wood-burning ovens, according to Reif. “In fact, most of my favorite moments came from the misadventures — like when any car we rode a long distance in broke down, and how the smile didn’t fade from her face as we proclaimed it was another aventura. Or the small things — when we went out for milkshakes and fries after work one Friday, and all of a sudden I was sharing parts of my life I had never told to anyone else,” Sacha wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

In addition, Hunter did research with the Haystack group. Lea Verou G, Kate’s UROP project leader, said, “Kate was special in the visible joy and enthusiasm that she brought to the learning and making that she did in our group.”

Madeline Abrahams ’20 first met Hunter when they both did the Freshman Leadership Program, but they were also part of the same dance in DT last semester. “Kate and I stood next to each other at the beginning of the dance, and right before we were going to start



CHRIS SACHA

Hunter standing by the Laguna Tebinquinche, San Pedro de Atacama in Chile after the car she and Sacha were riding in broke down.

dancing, she would always give me such an encouraging smile. I felt so much more confident to be on stage when she was nearby,” Abrahams said. “I will miss her so much and I wish I could go to DT practice on Sunday at 10 and dance with her one more time.”

Hunter was a sister of SK. SK President Madison Darmofal ’19 wrote in an email to *The Tech*, “She always had a smile on her face — in the boat, on the dance floor, in the

kitchen, and in the chapter room on movie nights. It’s hard to picture all of these places without her in them, and we should all consider ourselves incredibly lucky to have had the chance to know her and to be her sorority sister and friend.”

Hunter’s loss may have shocked the MIT community, but the people who knew her will remember her life and the times they had together with her. “Now, I feel like I’ve lost some part of myself,” Griffith said.

“But despite it all, I will always smile when I think of the many memories we made. And as long as she can still make me smile, I don’t think she can ever have truly left my side.”

Members of the MIT community can access MIT student support resources and Mental Health Services at [together.mit.edu](http://together.mit.edu), or via phone at 617-253-2916 during the day and at 617-253-4481 during nights and weekends.

# Tenth MacGregor entry under consideration

*Residents have expressed concerns on disruptive nature of proposed change*

By Jessica Shi

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MacGregor residents are deliberating whether to add a tenth entry, with a final decision to be made by the second week of February, according to MacGregor President Eleanor Wintersteen ’19 and Head of House Prof. Lawrence Sass.

A new apartment was built on the fourth floor of MacGregor’s H entry to accommodate the GRT for the students from La Casa who have been displaced by New House renovations and hosted in MacGregor for the past year. However, the renovations moved faster than expected, and the La Casa students will move out at the end of this academic year, instead of in 2019 as originally planned, Wintersteen said in an interview with *The Tech* Saturday.

to make a tenth entry or whether to pursue a different option.”

The details of this student-based decision-making process have not yet been finalized, Wintersteen said. “It will likely be a vote by HouseComm, where every entry gets a vote. Potentially, HouseComm could also decide to give the voting power to some other group,” such as the low rise entries (that is, F through J, with no I) only.

A few alternatives to adding an entry have also been discussed, such as having an in-dorm S3 dean, “which is not the most feasible thing because we would need a lot of buy-in from S3 as well,” Wintersteen said, or a non-traditional GRT focused on peer mentor and other leadership programs, similar to what Baker currently has.

However, students raised concerns about the entry at the meeting, which included skepticism that lowering the ratios would necessarily improve student support, as well as issues regarding the disruptive nature of breaking up current entries and the difficulties of building culture in a new entry.

“There was a lot of pushback, and so the Heads of House said, ‘Okay, we’ll take a step back,’ ” Wintersteen explained. “They decided to let us decide whether we want

general MacGregor population, Wintersteen said. “The Heads of House are very set on this and we don’t have much of a choice,” according to minutes from a Dec. 6 House Committee (HouseComm) discussion meeting forwarded to *The Tech*.

“While there is a lot of work to do, I also expect the role to be creatively challenging and fun,” Hayes wrote in a statement sent to *The Tech*. “This is an important time for MIT’s food and dining program: the student survey was completed in June ..., submissions to the RFP are expected soon, and I get to be part of a team of students, faculty, and staff that will help to chart the future of food and dining on campus.”

Previously, Hayes’s responsibilities were fulfilled by Naomi Carton, associate dean of residential life and dining. Carton’s role has been refocused on graduate student support “in response to [their] growing needs,” Matt Bauer, special assistant to the dean and director of communications for the DSL, wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

The search for a dining director started in the summer; candidates were interviewed in October; and Hayes received and accepted the offer in November, according to an additional email from Cummings sent to *The Tech*. —Jessica Shi

## New director of campus dining appointed

Mark Hayes will join the Division of Student Life in late January as the new Director of Campus Dining, according to an email from Executive Director of Administration Peter Cummings announcing the appointment.

Hayes has previously served in several positions in the field of campus dining services, most recently as the director of university-operated food services at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, in addition to

earlier roles at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and Harvard University, according to the email.

Hayes has also opened or helped open restaurants in the Netherlands, Singapore, and Pennsylvania, with the last location being an Italian eatery, Lidia’s Pittsburgh, the email continued.

“The Director of Campus Dining will oversee all of the areas of MIT dining operations including retail, residential, catering conference/business center services, vending food trucks, pubs and any other specialty services providing food to the campus,” according to the description in a job posting for the position on the William Spelman Executive Search website.

“While there is a lot of work to do, I also expect the role to be creatively challenging and fun,” Hayes wrote in a statement sent to *The Tech*. “This is an important time for MIT’s food and dining program: the student survey was completed in June ..., submissions to the RFP are expected soon, and I get to be part of a team of students, faculty, and staff that will help to chart the future of food and dining on campus.”

Previously, Hayes’s responsibilities were fulfilled by Naomi Carton, associate dean of residential life and dining. Carton’s role has been refocused on graduate student support “in response to [their] growing needs,” Matt Bauer, special assistant to the dean and director of communications for the DSL, wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

The search for a dining director started in the summer; candidates were interviewed in October; and Hayes received and accepted the offer in November, according to an additional email from Cummings sent to *The Tech*. —Jessica Shi

*The Tech* is looking for interactive graphic designers to join its online media team.

No experience necessary. We’ll give you the tools to get you started.

This is a great way to gain valuable job experience, build a strong web portfolio, and create designs that will be submitted for national awards.

For more information, email [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)

### Solution to On TV

from page 10

CHAR	DECOY	ASPS
LIFE	EXUDE	COIL
AREA	PILES	RAKE
NEWSCASTS	HOPED	
	SORTS	PESO
TAMEST	GRASPED	
ALIST	PILOT	ERE
PANS	PARED	TROT
AMI	WORSE	TRADE
SOSPADS	TEASER	
EONS	CARES	
TORTE	GAMESHWS	
ARIA	RATON	BRIE
MEET	UPEND	ASST
SOSO	BERGS	GOES

### Solution to India

from page 10

8	9	6	1	5	2	7	3	4
3	5	1	4	8	7	2	9	6
2	4	7	6	3	9	5	1	8
1	8	3	5	9	4	6	2	7
4	7	9	2	1	6	3	8	5
5	6	2	8	7	3	1	4	9
9	3	8	7	2	5	4	6	1
6	2	5	9	4	1	8	7	3
7	1	4	3	6	8	9	5	2

### Solution to Germany

from page 10

6	5	3	2	4	1
2	1	5	4	6	3
1	6	4	3	5	2
3	2	6	5	1	4
5	4	2	1	3	6
4	3	1	6	2	5



BY THE NUMBERS

# 18 things to do this IAP

In case you need help figuring out what to do with your life this January

By Karleigh Moore and Emma Bingham  
*EDITORS*

Welcome back to campus! Figuring out what to do with yourself at MIT can be hard when you don't have a schedule, set by classes and UROPs, to regulate your life. Here are some suggestions on how to spend your time this IAP.

1. Reconnect with old friends you lost touch with over break and the end-of-fall-term crunch. Make plans to catch up, perhaps over lunch at Clover or coffee at Flour.
2. Clean your room. Let's be real, you got the f\*ck out of Cambridge after finals, so your room could use some tidying up, and that's putting it nicely. Do your laundry (make sure to clean your sheets!) and recycle old papers and psets (burn 'em).
3. Wallow in a lack of productivity. We're thinking blanket forts. Netflix. Hot chocolate. A plus.
4. Go thrifting in Central Square. It's getting pretty chilly in Cambridge. Hit up Goodwill or Boomerang and supplement your wardrobe with a few cozy sweaters. Garment District in Kendall square is another solid option.

5. Read a book or two. The MIT libraries do have books about subjects other than chemistry, math, or algorithms. You could re-read *Harry Potter* or start a murder mystery novel. Check them out! Luxuriate in the feeling of being on campus sans psets. If you're taking an IAP class with psets, uh, sorry.
6. Go to Star Market. Ya know, one last time, before it closes down permanently in February. We hear they are having some pretty solid sales, so stock up on canned goods, toiletries, and other items you can stockpile for those times when a trip to the grocery store is the first thing you skip in favor of psetting or sleep.
8. Make some goals for next semester. These are similar to New Year's resolutions. Some examples popular with our editors are to "attend lectures" and "be more mindful of deadlines." It might help to come up with actionable ways to enforce your goals, too.
9. Iron out your sleep schedule so you can make good habits in time for the spring. All those late nights this past fall sure aren't gonna cut it next semester. In order to meet your goals from number 8, you're going to need proper sleep. I know it'll be tempting to stay up late all
10. Get ahead on your spring classes by browsing OCW (OpenCourseWare). Save yourself the trouble of class shopping, and do a trial run by reviewing the first few lectures of candidate courses. If you find one you really like, keep watching! Skip the psets, though. No need to subject yourself to that.
11. Participate in Mystery Hunt, one of the oldest and largest puzzle hunts in the world. Join a team with your floor-mates or student club comrades, and experience one of MIT's most famous and nerdy traditions.
12. Explore Boston in the snow. Make snow angels on Boston Common or stay warm indoors at the ICA or MFA. Have you been to the Boston Public Library yet? If not, a visit to BPL is a good way to accomplish item number 5 and get off campus in one fell swoop.
13. Build a snow sculpture or fort (and send pics to *The Tech*!) There's still snow on the ground from last week's blizzard. Take advantage of it before it's gone by making some snow art, or just pelt your friends with snowballs.
14. Go to Bad Ideas, a yearly event where students can finally try out all of their

15. Bake a ton of cookies to share. It's an easy way to make friends! Karleigh loves oatmeal chocolate chip, but Emma recommends chocolate crinkles.
  16. Attend an IAP not-for-credit talk, lecture, or event. There are offerings like Game Design and Development 101, A Brief History of Kanye, and How to Read a Patent. Check out the full list of offerings on the IAP website.
  17. Visit The Tech office for free dinner on a Sunday. :)
  18. When IAP winds down and you've completed items 1-17, pull yourself together, and email your advisor to schedule a reg day meeting.
- No matter how you choose to spend IAP (heck, maybe you're doing something at home, abroad, or an externship!) just remember to take some time for yourself. Do something fun, try something new. You deserve it!

THE PLUS PLUS

## My morning commute as an algorithm

That computer science lifestyle

By Karleigh Moore  
*EDITOR*

I am a creature of routines, and being a Course 6 student has inspired me to algorithmitize (yes, that's a made up word) my life when possible. For example, I do laundry every Saturday, sometimes earlier when my hamper is 75% full, or my favorite hoodie is in need of a wash. When I moved off campus, I was suddenly faced with a new daily decision: how to get to campus every day. Making an algorithm was the logical next step. Here's my thought process:

Let's get the easy stuff out of the way. I'm too uncoordinated to longboard and am scared of biking in the street, so there go those options. Don't even get me started on driving.

I'm from Michigan, which is (1) a state whose big claim to fame is making cars and (2) where everything is far enough away that you really need a car to get by. Unfortunately, driving gives me anxiety and I hate it. Moving to Cambridge, a relatively walkable city, was a relief for me.

Of course, there are more reasons to walk than just to avoid driving. Being a mostly-foot commuter is way cheaper than owning a car. Cars come with monthly payments, maintenance fees, parking fees, insurance fees, tolls, gas prices, etc. On the other hand, all I need as a foot commuter is a good pair of shoes (replaced every ~6 months due to wear), headphones, and a waterproof backpack. Of course, it doesn't hurt to have a few bucks on my CharlieCard here and there.

Speaking of CharlieCards, that brings me to the MBTA, which is another decision

branch in my commuter algorithm.

If the 1 Bus is less than four minutes away (inclusive), and there isn't a crowd at the Central Square stop, then it is worth hitching a ride into campus. This is the ideal scenario because I need to be on the west side of campus to start off my day. If that condition is satisfied, I take the bus, and my commute is easy.

However, if the bus is too far away and the weather is bad enough to make me slightly uncomfortable (rainy, too cold, too hot), I check if the inbound Red Line train will come within five minutes. This is a bit of a gamble, because even if the train is less than five minutes away, there's no way to gauge the crowdedness of the platform until I've already paid for the ride. With this commute, I still have to walk from the Kendall station to the west side of campus, but

at least most of that walk will be indoors.

Otherwise, if the bus is too far away and the wait for the T is too long, things can get a little messy — I have to add a few more conditionals. I'll wait longer for the train depending on how unbearable the weather is. Torrential downpour? I'll wait 12-15 minutes. Snowpocalypse? I'll wait a few minutes longer. But, ultimately, I'm always prepared to make the trek on foot. The trick is to make sure my laptop and notebook are in waterproof bags (always keep plastic bags in your backpack, kids!) before I set out for school.

If we get to this point, the algorithm throws an amusing error message (or, at least, this is what I like to imagine), and I have to actually take over and decide whether or not to call a Lyft or retreat to the comfiness of my living room.





# Not-so-Merry Christmas in Jerusalem

*Jerusalem is not the capital of Israel.*

There was no Christmas tree put up in Jerusalem this holiday season. In fact, it has been some time since a Christmas tree was put up in Jerusalem. The Christian population of Jerusalem — as old as Christianity itself, and the Palestinian population itself — is not permitted by the Israeli Occupation authorities to put up Christmas decorations in the Old City because they refuse to recognize Israel's occupation of the city. Instead, Christians put up their tree on private property and decorate the few pockets of the city where they still live. One thing is certain: there was, and will be, no Christmas joy this year in Jerusalem.

In fact, Palestinian Christians have been leaving the city for quite some time now; as a minority, they have been the most affected segment of Jerusalem's population, dropping from 20 percent pre-Israel to under 2 percent today due to the harsh conditions all Palestinians live under in the occupied city of Jerusalem. Several times, extremist Zionist settlers have taken over homes in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem, either by outright force (backed by the Israeli Army) or legal skullduggery by Zionist settler organizations, such as Ateret Cohanim (see B'Tselem for more information on settler violence). Unfortunately, this, seldom comes to light in western media, which presents the occupation as a conflict between the Israeli Judeo-Christian side and the Palestinian Muslim side, in an effort to gain support for its ongoing human rights violations.

In reality, all Palestinians — *f* Christians and Muslims alike — have suffered from Zionist aggressions since before 1948, the year in which the state of Israel was created and the Palestinian Nakba, or “catastrophe”, took place (over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed and around half of the Palestinian population was forced to flee from their homes and not allowed to return to this day; see Ilan Pappé’s *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*). They are subjected to a different set of laws entirely from Israelis and treated as worse than second-class citizens, since some are not even citizens. Many scholars and policymakers, including Secretary of State John Kerry, have noted that the realities on the ground in Palestine reflect those of Apartheid South Africa in the 1980s: Palestinians live under similar systems of control and oppression, face similar types of legislative and legal discrimination, and experience violence at the hands of US-equipped and backed Israeli occupying forces.

Visualizing Palestine is an excellent resource for quantifying the conflict. Palestinians constitute about 40 percent of Jerusalem's population but receive only 10 percent of the city's public funds, resulting in poor living conditions. Most Palestinians living in Jerusalem do not even hold legal status; the path to residency (to simply *continue* living in Jerusalem) is arduous and gaining citizenship requires a pledge of loyalty to the occupying Israeli state.

On the other hand, Israeli settlers – even if born outside of the region – are given citizenship, protection, and social welfare. At present, a population of 200,000 Israelis live in illegal settlements in East Jerusalem, built in the place of demolished Palestinian homes. The Israeli demolition of nearly 700 Palestinian homes in Jerusalem since 2012, combined with an Israeli

restriction on Palestinian construction in 87 percent of East Jerusalem's land, has led to loss of residency by over 14,000 Palestinians. These constitute not only severe violations of international law, but war crimes under the Rome Statute of the ICC and serious breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

It is clear, after 70 years of expelling Palestinians and 50 years of internationally-condemned military occupation, that hope for a peaceful and harmonious Jerusalem is delusional as a result of the ongoing Zionist project. Yet many have envisioned Jerusalem as a home for Jews, Christians, and Muslims to live and worship in peace. This vision was shared by the pre-1948 Jewish community in Jerusalem and Palestinians alike.

For example, Yosef tzvi Dushinsky, the Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Orthodox community in Jerusalem and a staunch opponent of Zionism, wrote a letter in 1947 pleading with the UN to maintain Jerusalem as an internationally autonomous zone that was *not* part of the new Jewish state that was to be created. The Chief Rabbi envisioned a Jerusalem that permitted all citizens to live and practice their religions freely. Likewise, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole representative of the Palestinian people, expressed similar views as early as in 1969 when it declared its desire "to establish a free and democratic society in [historic] Palestine for all Palestinians whether they are Muslims, Christians or Jews."

The primary opponent to realizing such a vision is the Israeli Zionist project which asserts that all of Jerusalem belongs to Israel, undermining international resolutions and negotiated agreements. In 1980, the Israeli "Basic Law" (or "Jerusalem law") declares that "Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel." In a similar move, the ruling party voted to annex the remainder of Palestinian land. In both cases, the Israelis have claimed ownership over Palestinian lands but denied Palestinians citizenship or rights, instead placing them under a brutal military occupation, severely violating international law.

Despite these claims by Israel, and despite the recent American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital (with a promise to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem), **Jerusalem is not the capital of Israel.**

The status of Jerusalem is crucial to peace negotiations. A set of agreements signed in 1993 between the Palestinians and Israelis, known as the Oslo Accords, clearly relegated the status of Jerusalem to future negotiations. By attempting to decide the outcome of one of the most crucial components of negotiations, the Israelis and Americans are delegitimizing their position as negotiators of peace.

Moreover, aside from some factions in Israel and the current US administration, there has been no international support for such a claim. In a 14-to-1 vote, the UN Security Council supported rescinding the US declaration that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel. However, the US was the sole vote against the resolution, and since it has veto power, the vote failed. A vote in the UN general assembly was thus undertaken three days later. In a 128-to-9 vote, the member states of the United Nations resoundingly condemned the US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, even in the face of US threats to cut off aid to them.

The US Despite the United States' regular assertions about its position as a world leader, it has absolutely no right or authority under international law — or any code of authority, legal or moral — to do so.

As Harvard's Palestine Solidarity Committee put it, "Trump's statement is not a 'recognition of reality,' but rather a tacit approval of attempts to delay and stall the peace process while illegally changing the facts on the ground to make peace impossible. It is a recognition and legitimization of war crimes and illegal occupation. It is a recognition and normalization of systematic oppression and institutionalized apartheid against the Palestinians."

Naturally, the Palestinian uproar in response to the US Administration's announcement is not simply over the status of Jerusalem in the abstract. It is very concrete and rooted in occupation, oppression, destruction of livelihood, and intentional denigration of Palestinian dignity.

Since the announcement, Palestinians have participated in non-violent protests. The result has been devastating: 16 Palestinians have been killed, including a man with disabilities and, most recently, a 17-year-old boy named Musab al-Tamimi. There have been nearly 3,000 injuries, some of which are not treated as a result of Israeli limitations on travel. Around 700 individuals have been arrested for protesting, including at least 77 children. One was 16-year-old Fawzi al-Junaidi, who was dragged off, blindfolded, by 22 Israeli soldiers in a picture that went viral. Another was 16-year-old Ahed al-Tamimi, who has made international headlines for slapping an Israeli soldier after they shot her 15-year-old cousin, severely and permanently damaging his head and face.

This is the face of the Israeli occupation. Given the realities on the ground and the recent announcement by the US regarding Jerusalem's status, two options remain. Israel can make a choice to include Jerusalem's status in peace negotiations, and thus abide by agreements it has already signed onto as well as the international consensus. Alternatively, it can make its goal to control all of historic Palestine, including an undivided Jerusalem, and make it clear to the world that it is not interested in any negotiated settlement. The former option provides a reasonable and peaceful way forward. The latter can only ensure instability in an already-destabilized Middle East.

The Israeli occupation is made possible by the staunch military and diplomatic support of the United States. Militarily, it provides Israel with around \$4 billion dollars annually to build its army. Diplomatically, it has consistently vetoed UN Security Council resolutions that condemn Israeli violations of international law. Because the United States has given Israel the green light to continue with its illegal practices, it seems unlikely that the US government and policymakers will be able to broker peace. It is incumbent upon Americans that have a genuine interest in peace in the Holy Land to do what they did in South Africa beginning in the 1960s: support boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and ends the occupation of Palestine.

*Fayed Ali is a member of the MIT Class of 2019 and is a member of Palestine@MIT.*

Nasir Almasri is a graduate student in the Department of Political Science and is a member of Palestine@MIT.

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Karleigh Moore, Editor in Chief Vivian Zhong, Executive Editor Emma Bingham, and Opinion Editor Steven Truong.

**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once

submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to [general@tech.mit.edu](mailto:general@tech.mit.edu), and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing [eic@tech.mit.edu](mailto:eic@tech.mit.edu). Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu). Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu). *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://thetech.com>



# Why is Arab violence taken as a given?

*Conversation needs to shift from 'don't provoke' to 'no excuse for terrorism'*

**By Suri Bandler**

On Dec. 6, 2017, President Trump announced that America officially acknowledges Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and would eventually move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Referring to this as "acknowledging the obvious," Trump explained that Israel is a sovereign state, recognized internationally and by the U.S., with the right to determine its own capital. In his declaration, Trump reiterated that such a move has no bearing on the city's status under any peace agreement.

This declaration is entirely a symbolic gesture. The Israeli people already view Jerusalem as their capital in theory and in practice and as such all government business is conducted in the city: Jerusalem is the location of residence for Israeli's prime minister and president, hosts the Israeli Supreme Court and Parliament, and is the location in which visiting leaders are greeted.

Similarly, the American government already accepted Jerusalem as Israel's capital long before this declaration. The 1995 *Jerusalem Embassy Act*, passed overwhelmingly in the House (374–37) and Senate (93–5), declared an undivided Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and called for the US embassy to be moved there from Tel Aviv. A provision, enacted every six months by previous presidents and by Trump along with this declaration, postpones the implementation of the act's contents in the case that “such suspension is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States.”

Such a provision acknowledged threats of violence and maintained a status quo of appeasement. Unfortunately, violence is both the expectation and the reality. In response to Trump's declaration, the Palestinian "national and Islamic forces" announced three "days of rage," or violent protests, which included rioters throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails. Additionally, over 30 rockets were fired indiscriminately into Israeli communities from Gaza, and Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist organization that controls Gaza, promised an intifada, or a violent uprising. The last official intifada, the Second Intifada, began in 2001 and resulted in terrorists killing over 1000 Israelis. This new declaration by Hamas follows a wave of stabbings, shootings, and car-rammings that began in 2015

and was deemed by some the “Stabbing Intifada.” To this date, it has included hundreds of such terrorist attacks.

Considering internationally recognized peace plans call for Jerusalem to be the capital of both entities, presumably it would be expected that the U.S. embassy would be built there. But unfortunately, we are left with violence and rocket fire in response

**Why is the immediate international reaction to maintain the status quo and repeal the declaration, in light of the “eventual” violence and instability that this purely symbolic move will cause and not an immediate condemnation of the incitement and calls to violence witnessed across the Arab world?**

to this symbolic gesture. This is not the first time that Jerusalem was used as an *excuse and justification* for violence. Such a trend is consistent throughout history. For example:

Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, on Sept. 28, 2001 was described as the "match" that instigated the Second Intifada. This intifada, mentioned earlier, began on Sept. 29, 2001 and resulted in Palestinian terrorists killing over 1000 Israelis through suicide bombings and other attacks. But there is evidence of direct orchestration, including the providing of arms for attacks, and testimony by his widow about his premeditated intentions to instigate violence, by then-leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1994.

Non-Muslim prayer is prohibited at the Temple Mount site due to threats of retribution, thereby casting prayer as an act of “provocation.” Even repairing a walkway in 2007 that served as the only entrance for non-Muslims to the site led to rioting across Jordan and Jerusalem and calls for a third intifada. Similarly, in July 2017, violence

broke out in reaction to metal detectors that were installed by the Temple Mount. These metal detectors were installed in response to the smuggling of weapons that were used to kill two Israeli Druze police officers at the site. In response to the “desecration” caused by the installment, a Palestinian terrorist murdered three members of a civilian family at a Shabbat meal. The White House applauded Israel for easing tensions by removing the detectors.

Mahmoud Abbas, Israel's supposed peace partner, also uses Jerusalem as a means of instigating violence, honoring terrorists with monuments and monetary rewards, as witnessed with the Stabbing Intifada. Abbas has claimed that Jews' "filthy feet" disgrace the site and praised "every drop of blood that was spilled for Jerusalem." No UN resolution was passed in condemnation to these statements and calls for violence, yet we are left with overwhelming condemnation at the movement of an embassy. If the motivation behind these US embassy condemnations is a desire for peace, then how can organizations like the UN not condemn *active calls for violence*?

This announcement can now be added to the list.

Indeed, the PLO went as far as to threaten to revoke recognition of Israel's existence in response to a purely symbolic gesture by the *American* government. Using such an arbitrary act as an excuse for such a drastic and nonsensical response indicates that the PLO does not want peace. Unfortunately, these duplicitous actions are not limited

**If we establish a status quo where violence against civilians is overlooked or justified, then there will never be peace.**

to the PLO and are ubiquitous across international forums. Although Jerusalem is the holiest city for Jews, and the Temple Mount is the holiest site, the United Nations UNESCO motion failed to recognize the site's significance to Israel.

At the same time, in response to this U.S. declaration, the UN passed a resolu-

tion condemning the announcement and not the violence. Countries that voted in favor include China, Russia, Venezuela, and Qatar, each with a long list of human rights abuses. This is unfortunately no surprise, as between 2012–2015 86% of UN resolutions that condemned a single country condemned Israel. In 2016, 20 out of 26 condemnations focused on Israel, while only three related to Syria, and one each was related to North Korea, Iran, and Crimea. Just as the PLO's disproportional threat to revoke recognition of Israel's existence sheds light on its motivations, so too does the UN's disproportional focus on Israel call into question these forums' true intentions. Why is there this incredible imbalance in condemnations towards Israel?

Why is the immediate international reaction to maintain the status quo and repeal the declaration, in light of the "eventual" violence and instability that this purely symbolic move will cause and not an immediate condemnation of the incitement and calls to violence witnessed across the Arab world? Why is Arab violence taken as a given and why does the international community impose few expectations regarding violent uprisings that target civilians: men, women and children, infants, and the elderly?

If we establish a status quo where violence against civilians is overlooked or justified, then there will never be peace. We need to shift the paradigm from “don’t provoke” to “these excuses and the resulting violence will not be accepted” and hold any entity accountable for terrorism.

Put simply: if our standards are such that praying at a holy site is considered a justifiable excuse for violence, then the barrier to peace is not a symbolic gesture by the US. This mindset of simply assuming violence and terror has become so common that even many Israeli leaders and civilians are against this embassy move too, simply because a symbolic gesture supporting a situation already accepted by the Israeli people isn't worth a threat to Israeli lives. Arab leaders, therefore, threaten violence with no standards or repercussions imposed by the international community. If this move brings anything to light, it should not be the importance of an embassy location, but rather the disproportionate and misguided reactions of the international community and the disparity that exists between standards for Israel and the Arab world.

OPINION

Want to see these  
teams battle it out  
in person?

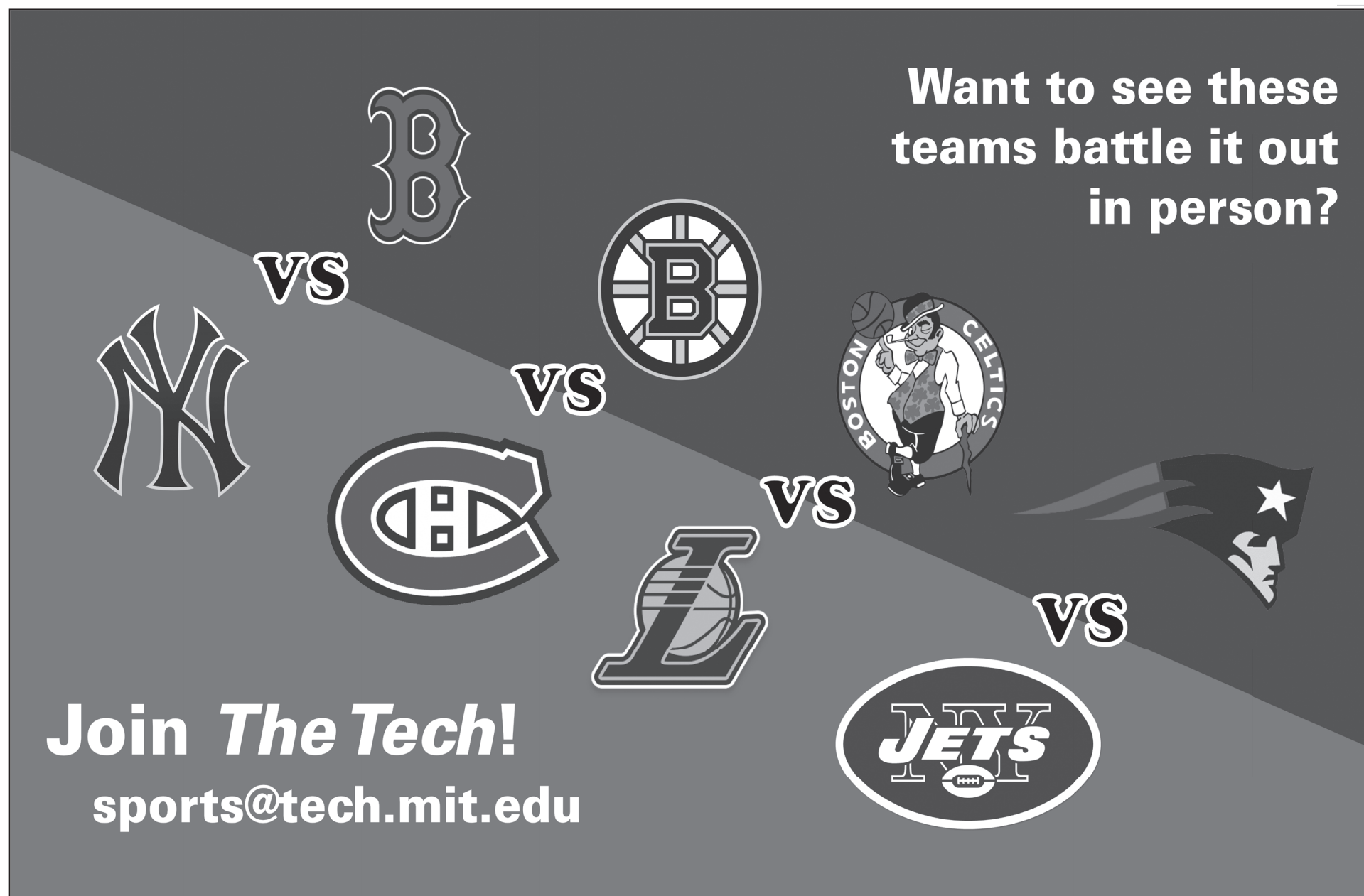
vs

vs

vs

vs

**Join *The Tech!***  
**sports@tech.mit.edu**





BC heads of house to step down

History Professor Anne McCants and her husband, William McCants, will be stepping down as heads of house of Burton Conner at the end of this academic year, according to an email Prof. McCants sent to Burton Conner residents Jan. 9.

Prof. McCants will be starting a three year term as the President of the International Economic History Association this summer, which will “require a lot more travel of me than is feasible while serving as Head of a residence hall as large and complex as BC,” McCants wrote in her email.

The McCants, who became BC Heads of House in 2012, have assumed administrative roles for various living groups on Dorm Row over the years: from 1992 to 2002, they served as the housemasters for Green Hall, then a graduate women’s dorm, and in the years following, Prof. McCants was also a house fellow at New House, according to previous Tech coverage.

Though the McCants will no longer live in BC, they will still be “on the other side of Mass Ave,” Prof. McCants wrote. “I won’t be too far away.”

—Sharon Chao

Dean Nelson in contact with student leaders

Star Market, from Page 1

cide what the best use is.”

Farley disagreed with the idea that there are no comparable alternatives to Star Market of the same variety and price in the area. Farley said that “there are other grocery stores in the area that have opened over the last several years,” and those stores would adequately serve the community’s needs if another grocer did not replace Star Market.

All members of the Cambridge City Council who spoke on this subject at the council meeting, however, held that replacing Star Market is essential.

“The neighborhood that [Star Market is] situated in — Cambridgeport, the Port, and Riverside — has a high concentration of residents that don’t have cars,” Councillor Alanna Mallon said.

One councillor suggested that the replacement supermarket be in a different location within the area. “I think a different location within the area might make more sense, realistically,” said Councillor Dennis Carlone. Carlone stated that supermarkets to whom he has spoken they need a “relationship to parking and ... a high-density residential base.” Carlone and the majority of the council who voiced opinions felt that Star Market’s second floor location was to its disadvantage.

Mayor Marc McGovern and Devereux suggested the possibility that the new supermarket have a smaller footprint. McGovern said that Kiely had told him earlier on Monday that “[Forest City is] looking to ‘gut’ the space” so that people can envision it differently than how it’s laid out

now, — that Star Market is huge, — and maybe it’s a supermarket with a different footprint. We’re certainly seeing Target and other places that are adapting to more urban spaces, which are smaller.”

Devereux has also been in contact with Michael Monestime, Executive Director of the Central Square Business Association, about maintaining grocery options in the area. She said that Monestime is in contact with bfresh, a healthy and affordable grocery chain that is looking to open a location in Cambridge.

Whether a new grocery store takes Star Market’s place depends “on the lease terms and whether Forest City and MIT are amenable to working with the community to potentially make a favorable lease term, whether it requires some subsidy ... to make it happen,” Devereux said.

Gallop did not comment on MIT’s plans, citing that Forest City manages the leasing of the space in an email to *The Tech* last Thursday.

News of Star Market’s impending closure has circulated on student mailing lists. Many students were alarmed and worried about where they would go for groceries; others seemed satisfied with the existing options. Some suggested other local stores and discussed the pros and cons of each option including distance from campus, store prices, and variety of products available.

“It’s a shame to lose such a convenient location for shopping, and I can imagine the closure will make cooking for yourself more of a hassle,” Matthew Luerman ’19 wrote in an email to *The Tech* Jan. 4.

“Like all retailers, we’re constantly evaluating the performance of our

portfolio of stores. Closing an underperforming store is always a tough decision,” Star Market External Communication & Community Relations Manager Teresa Edington told *The Tech* in an email last Thursday.

“There have always been complaints that it wasn’t very visible from the street because of signage and being upstairs makes it less obvious that there’s a grocery there,” Devereux said.

The Vice Mayor seemed hopeful that another grocer would take Star Market’s place. “Forest City [oversaw] a huge development, and it has really activated that [area] ... and they have lots of residents and employees that work in all the buildings, so I would think it would be in their interest as well [to have another grocery store take Star Market’s space],” Devereux said.

Suzy Nelson, MIT Vice President and Dean for Student Life, wrote in an email to *The Tech* Jan. 4 that she is “reaching out to the leaders of the Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council so that we can work together to minimize the impact [of the closure] on our students.”

“MIT currently offers free shuttles to Target in Cambridge, Costco in Everett, Trader Joe’s on Memorial Drive, and Whole Foods on River Street during the weekends,” Nelson wrote.

Star Market will relocate its employees at the Central Square location to other branches, Devereux said.

The company announced the closing Dec. 29, Edington wrote.

Sharon Chao and Karleigh Moore contributed reporting.

# 101 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

32. Take a stroll through Little Italy in the North End

Join the Arts department at *The Tech* and write restaurant reviews.

(And get reimbursed for your meal!)

## Want to be Editor in Chief of *The Tech*? Most EICs start as news writers.

[join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)



# Relax, it's a new year!

The holidays are over and it's time to get your finances back on track.

- Earn **2% CASH BACK** on transferred balances for limited time\*
- Fee-free balance transfers
- No annual fee



Federally Insured by NCUA

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/mitfcu) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mitfcu) [mitfcu.org](https://www.mitfcu.org)

**Get Started Today.**  
[mitfcu.org/relax](https://mitfcu.org/relax)

\* Two percent incentive is posted as a credit to member's saving account within 60 days of balance transfer post. Limited time offer and subject to change without notice. Balance transfers are applicable only from existing non-MIT FCU credit cards or creditors; it does not apply to cash advances or current MIT loans. Balance transfer begins accruing interest on date that transfer is made to MIT FCU credit card. Transfers will not be issued in excess of your MIT FCU credit limit. Transfers and balance payoffs will not automatically close out any other credit cards you may have. You must notify your original credit card company directly to request account closure. Promotion dates run from January 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018.



THEATER REVIEW

This classic story will surely not bore you this time

Bedlam’s Sense & Sensibility does Jane Austen’s novel justice in its modernesque retelling

★★★★☆

Bedlam’s Sense & Sensibility

Written by Kate Hamill

Directed by Eric Tucker

Choreographed by Alexander Beller

The American Repertory Theater

Loeb Drama Center

Dec. 10–Jan. 14

By Johnson Huynh

In improvisation, there’s a saying that we always scream from the audience, “Energy, energy, energy!” Don’t drown us with your melodrama but instead illuminate the room with your acting. It was this phrase that popped up so often during the production as though it heard me. Start to finish, every scene leaps out of the stage and into your heart. If this sounds like something you’d enjoy, *Bedlam’s Sense & Sensibility* is drenched with a frenetic vivacity.

As I’m settling into my seats, I look down at the stage. It is long and narrow, with no curtains. There is no way that any set pieces can possibly be shrouded save for the ends of the stage, which have been set up with walls to hide the actors and tech staff. Elegant chandeliers dangle from the ceiling, painting the floor with its orange glow, and paintings of the English countryside hang from the walls.

Having read *Sense & Sensibility* in high school, I was very curious to see how director, Eric Tucker, would bring this centuries old tome to the present day. Needless to say, I was very doubtful.

Then blares the dance music.

Everything is suddenly tinted purple, ripped straight from Prince’s “Purple Rain.” The people on stage begin dancing, whooping with laughter and joy. This theme would come back again and again throughout the production’s two and a half hour run-time. Theater is something that everyone should have fun with, including the actors. Having no permanent set pieces, this production instead relies heavily on mobile props. You could have the Dashwoods casually lounging in their chairs when ten more roll out from the sides. It grants a certain *joie de vivre* to the typically monotonous scene shifts.

With the same high octane energy as their dancing, the actors transfigure themselves into their characters. Their excitement was palpable, material, drawing me forwards to take part in their merrymaking. The first act begins not long after, in-



The cast of *Bedlam’s Sense & Sensibility*.

roducing us to the Dashwood sisters attempting to live life with the little money that they have. Being of marrying age, though, the sisters also navigate love in English society.

There are strong performances by Maggie McDowell as Elinor Dashwood and Jessica Frey as Marianne Dashwood as they balance the intricacies of their characters with the sisterly love that they share for each other. However, this is not to say that the other characters are lackluster. As a matter of fact, every actor brings Jane

Austen’s novel to life. Parts of a mosaic, the production is filled with incredible small moments that can only be experienced for yourself.

Even while I was struggling to finish up my finals, I couldn’t stop myself from smile when a memory of Edward Ferrars (Jamie Smithson) hilariously performing *Hamlet* to Marianne surfaced. It’s moments like these that make *Bedlam’s Sense & Sensibility* truly remarkable. Truly, it shows that no text can really be dead. All it takes is some dance music and a lot of wheels.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Poker Princess’s empire of wealth rises and falls

Memoir turned film in Aaron Sorkin’s stunning directorial debut, *Molly’s Game*



Idris Elba and Jessica Chastain star in *Molly’s Game*.

By Ivy Li  
ARTS EDITOR

From her childhood, skiing law student Molly Bloom (Jessica Chastain) was like her brothers, possessing a brilliant future in both academics and sports due to her father’s (Kevin Costner) influence. But a protruding stick in the snow first takes her skis and then her Olympic career away. After this failure, she doesn’t go to law school but instead tries to build financial independence. By coincidence, she ends up working a spreadsheet for a poker game and soon finds herself running underground multi-million dollar poker games. The film is inter-

cut with the present court trial after her FBI arrest as she works with Charlie Jaffey (Idris Elba) to fight for her freedom.

Twice, Molly Bloom falls from grace. First: her Olympic skiing accident that puts her out of the contest. Next: her arrest for running poker games that marks her as a felon. Brilliant law student turns criminal as she buries herself deeper into the world of the elite. She switches from a casual J.C. Penney frock to tight Barneys dresses. Food porn, sex appeal, lavish hotels, high-stakes poker: this is the visual language the film and its characters speak in.

A refreshing change is Molly’s shrewd, complicated brilliance and the rare juxta-

position of sensual visuals with the non-sensual art of running a business. Molly’s Cinemax image is important in this world: body-hugging dresses empower her among men who only see dollar signs and women to sleep with. The elites she rules over include the wunderkinds of Silicon Valley, the star studded, the yacht club, the Russian mob, or essentially, the *untouchables*. One man even offers a Monet painting for collateral. It’s no surprise that films about the illegal underworld have been popular in the past. The Average Joe of America is fascinated by these people, and perhaps the irony is that once you join these people, the fall from grace hurts, and nobody knows this better than Molly.

Molly commands a fair table. She narrates, “In this room you couldn’t buy your win, you couldn’t buy me, and you couldn’t buy a seat at the table.” Men hit on her, but she refuses their advances. She asks a lawyer to ensure she is running a legal operation. She eventually makes her Molly Bloom poker chips, name, logo, and all. Her name is what she tries to protect, both in court and in life, in spite of the allure of money. But this changes when she rigs a game to take some of the pot money and does molly (pun intended) to stay awake for her business dealings.

So what does all this say about the film? First, I’m a sucker for films about the mob, the nouveau riche, poker, and Sorkinese writing. You don’t know how much I wanted to love this film. What went wrong? The film echoes of *The Social Network* — comparisons are inevitable — while not quite being there. *The Social Network* is written tightly

★★★★☆

Molly’s Game

Directed by Aaron Sorkin

Based on Molly Bloom’s book Molly’s Game

Starring Jessica Chastain, Idris Elba, Kevin Costner, Michael Cera

Rated R, Now Playing

and paced rapidly. *Molly’s Game* possesses the same quick dialogue, but it doesn’t have the same urgency. But the film’s worst sin is its need for Molly to be a redeemed hero. Her meeting with her father and the passionate speech by Molly’s lawyer preach Molly’s redemption in a way that removes our right to decide for ourselves. I’m disappointed at this loss, but I am also too engrossed by the film to not recommend a watch.

For Aaron Sorkin’s directorial debut, this is fitting. Molly is thrown headfirst into a world she runs and then loses control of before she redeems herself. Sorkin directs his own screenwriting, navigating the unique elements of a fast-paced Sorkin film, losing control before ending with the Sorkin-styled preachy dialogue. So go, join the table, just for the experience.

Can you beat this drawing?

Join Illustrators at The Tech!

E-mail [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)

Want to be Editor in Chief of *The Tech*?

Most EICs start as news writers.

[join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)







## MOVIE REVIEW

## A fun, albeit generic, family flick for the holidays

*Ferdinand* is your run-of-the-mill children's movie bound to still teach a few good lessons

★★★★★

# Ferdinand

**Directed by Carroos Saldanha**

**Based on books by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson**

**Screenplay by Robert Baird, Tim Federie, and Brad Copeland**

**By Lila Jansen**

From the people who brought you Ice Age (and Ice Age 2, 3, 4 and more....) comes *Ferdinand*, the story of "a giant bull with a big heart." Given its creators, Ferdinand offers exactly what you might expect — an over-the-top, farcical animation that, while accomplishes nothing remarkable, is well-suited for its young audience.

*Ferdinand* tells the story of a champion bloodline bull (John Cena). While he maintains the measurements of his ancestry, Fer-

dinand lacks the fighting mentality. Instead, he prefers to garden, frolic, and dance. The movie tells the story of his journey to escape his destiny of fighting in the ring and return to his family in the Spanish countryside.

The film stars a cast of characters typical of its genre. You have Lupe (Kate McKinnon) the comedic sidekick (think Shrek's Donkey or Sid the Sloth from *Ice Age*) who takes the form of an extremely talkative, dumb, and enthusiastic goat. You have a classic villain, the bullfighter El Primero (Miguel Ángel Silvestre); and you have the misunderstood bully,





# Germany

Solution, page 2

30x		120x			1
2÷			18+		
	13+				6+
14+		60x		3x	
			6x		30x
1-		1		2	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21					22				
			23					24						
25	26	27					28						29	30
31						32	33					34		
35					36						37			
38					39						40			
41				42					43					
		44					45	46						
47	48					49						50	51	52
53					54						55			
56					57						58			
59					60						61			

43 Latest fashions	49 Stare in amazement
45 Supply party food for	50 Approximately
46 In the company of	51 Very knowledgeable
47 Scottish caps	52 Complete collections
48 Black-and-white cookie	54 <u>      </u> the wrong way (annoy)

A four-panel comic strip featuring stick figures. Panel 1: A single stick figure asks, "I WONDER IF 2018 WILL BE A LEAP YEAR." Panel 2: Two stick figures; one says "...IT WON'T BE, RIGHT?" and the other replies "I DOUBT ANYONE KNOWS AT THIS POINT." Panel 3: Two stick figures; one says "NO, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT. LEAP YEARS ARE DIVISIBLE BY 4." and the other replies "RIGHT, AND FOR ODD NUMBERS, THAT'S EASY. BUT 2018 IS EVEN. 50/50 CHANCE." Panel 4: Two stick figures walking away; one says "I CAN SETTLE THIS WITH A CALCULATOR." and the other replies "NO WAY. IF IT WERE EASY TO FACTOR LARGE NUMBERS LIKE THAT, MODERN CRYPTOGRAPHY WOULD COLLAPSE. I SEE. I JUST HOPE WE MANAGE TO BRUTE-FORCE IT BY FEBRUARY."

I WONDER IF 2018 WILL BE A LEAP YEAR.

...IT WON'T BE, RIGHT?

I DOUBT ANYONE KNOWS AT THIS POINT.

NO, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT. LEAP YEARS ARE DIVISIBLE BY 4.

RIGHT, AND FOR ODD NUMBERS, THAT'S EASY. BUT 2018 IS EVEN. 50/50 CHANCE.

I CAN SETTLE THIS WITH A CALCULATOR.

NO WAY. IF IT WERE EASY TO FACTOR LARGE NUMBERS LIKE THAT, MODERN CRYPTOGRAPHY WOULD COLLAPSE.

I SEE.

I JUST HOPE WE MANAGE TO BRUTE-FORCE IT BY FEBRUARY.

We should really start calculating it earlier, but until the end of December we're always too busy trying to figure out which day Christmas will fall on.



# HOROSCOPES

# Aquarius

If you haven't completed your swim test yet, this IAP is the month to do it. The alignment of Jupiter and Earth's Moon increase your buoyancy by approximately 12 percent. Be extra careful to stay on top of your to-do list; a few much-dreaded tasks may go undone if you don't exercise

# Pisces

Since the first snowfall and the freezing of the Charles River, love has never been so ripe for the harvest. Staying indoors all the time will finally give you the courage to ask out your Patagonia-clad suitor after awkwardly gawking at them all of last semester in 6.006. Take caution, however, Neptune will not protect you from crying after watching Coco.

# Aries

Fed up with the general lax attitude of IAP and the credit limit, you decide to create a groundbreaking start-up. The fire inside of you allows you to overcome any obstacle, for Mars will enter Orion's belt on the eve of your official launch. The world will now know the brilliance of mechanized snow-cone throwers!

# Taurus

Now is not the time to be loose with your spare change. You need to tighten your purse strings and live frugally this month. The current location of Neptune in its orbit will cause you financial strain in the coming months. Now's a good time to write out a budget. And double check last year's taxes...

# Gemini

Now that classes are over, IAP is the perfect time to climb the social ladder in your UROP lab. Whether through raw talent or natural charm, Alpha Centauri Proxima entering the mouth of Ursa Major will grant a +2 bonus to Charisma. Make sure to maintain all 5,000 of your Snapchat streaks!

# Cancer

Your future this month is very unclear. Cancers are greatly affected by the motions of Pluto this month, but since Pluto is no longer considered a planet (by humans), it is unclear how much weight this will have on your life. Be sure to attend Prof. Robert Weinberg's talk on Feb. 2 and see where the world of science is in the battle against your species.

Leo

A risk will present itself to you as the month progresses. A particle of dust that collides with another particle of dust in Saturn's rings will bring you luck; take the risk, the reward will be tremendous. You'll be really unlucky romantically though. Better to just delete Tinder now to spare yourself the crippling disappointment.

# Virgo

This is a month that will make or break friendships. Be cautious of blizzard-weather friends. Make sure to pay attention to your fair-weather friends, who are likely warmer in spirit. Avoid the game Uno at all costs. Make sure to be extra friendly and emotionally vulnerable with new people you meet.

# Libra

Better be GRYFFINDOR!

# Scorpio

You will be the savior to our sins of procrastination. You will provide your peers answers to 8.223 p-sets, you beautiful soul. Live long and prosper. You are the hero Gotham deserves, not the hero that it needs right now. Amen...

# Sagittarius

If you're on campus right now, leave in order to satisfy your inner wanderlust. Your dorm, MIT's campus, Cambridge, the Boston-metro area, Mass.: there's nothing for you here. Make sure to regularly update your Insta so that all your non-Sagittarius friends on campus def get FOMO. The motion of the Kuiper Belt's third asteroid (zero-indexed) suggests that you'll get at least one new follower.

# Capricorn

Try two new cheeses this month. Gouda and feta just won't cut it. Around the 17th, you'll be struck with an inexplicable need to expand your palette (not with orthodontics, we just mean trying new foods). Make sure one of the cheeses is spicy and the other is sweet. Despite your lactose intolerance and your gastrointestinal tract being a time bomb like the storm of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, you will persevere.





Eliza is a 10x ninja rockstar full-stack  
neurolinguistic hacker coding deep recurrent  
neural nets in Javascript and using them to build  
actionable insights on big data in the cloud.

Be like Eliza. Join

# KENSHO

@17 Dunster Street in Harvard Square

**EMAIL US**  
[mit@kensho.com](mailto:mit@kensho.com)